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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Charles J. Alpert, et al.  
Assignee: International Business Machines Corporation  
Title: STABILITY METRICS FOR PLACEMENT TO QUANTIFY  
THE STABILITY OF PLACEMENT ALGORITHMS  
Serial No.: 10/825,148 Filing Date: April 15, 2004  
Examiner: S. Whitmore Group Art Unit: 2825  
Docket No.: AUS920040082US1

Austin, Texas  
January 18, 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Mail Stop Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action dated October 18, 2005, having a shortened statutory period expiring January 18, 2006. No extension of time is believed to be required to respond to the Action; however, in the event any extension of time is required, please consider that extension requested and please charge any associated fee, and any additional required fees, to deposit account number 09-0447. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.